

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in California



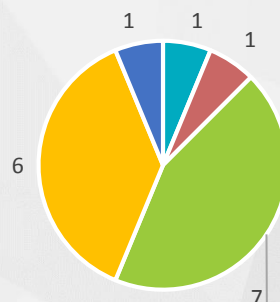
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including four in California. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

California Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



- Soil Health
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quantity/Drought

16

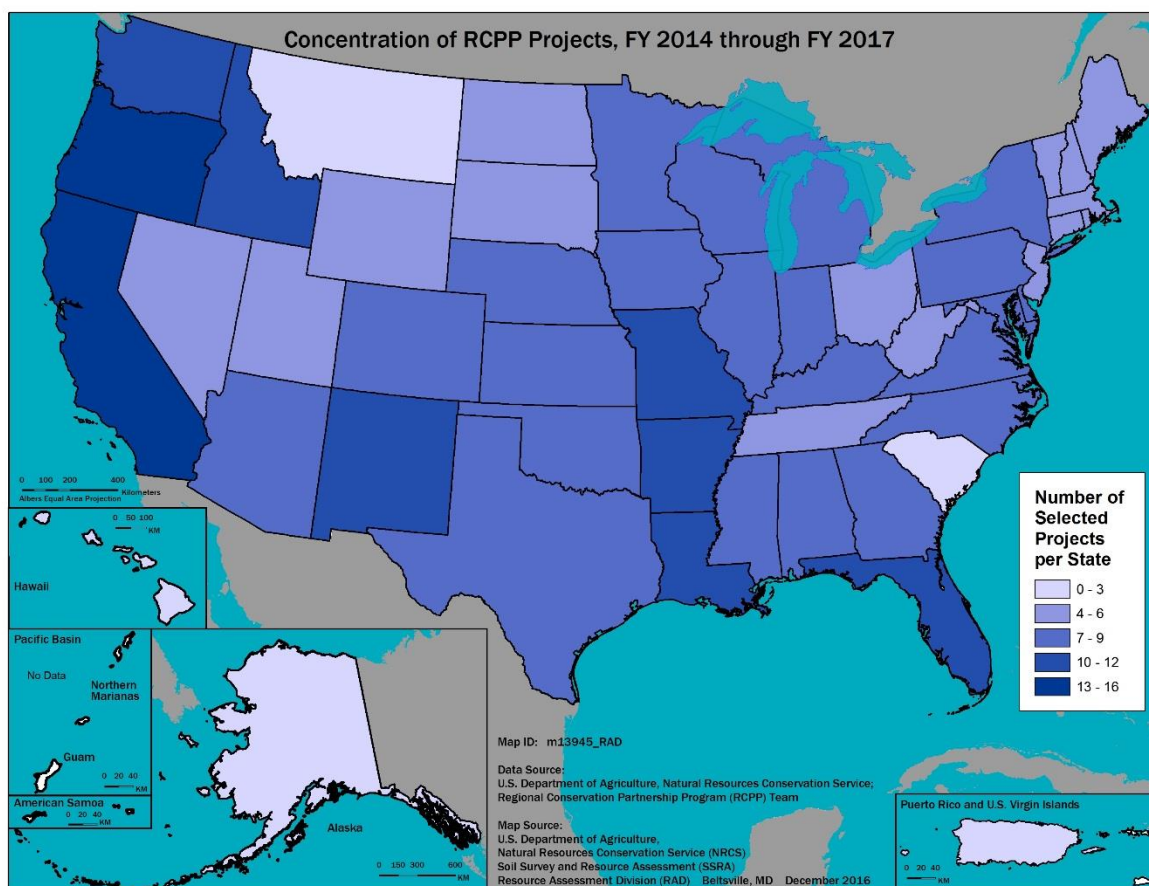
Projects

\$79.1
million

NRCS Investment

170

Partners



Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	North Coast Oak Woodland Conservation Project	State	University of California Cooperative Extension	9	\$2.6 million
2016	Salton Sea Agricultural Wetlands Habitat Program	National	Salton Sea Authority	6	\$7.5 million
2016	Sierra Valley CPP	CCA	Feather River Land Trust	3	\$9.9 million
2016	SONEC Working Wet Meadows Initiative	National	Intermountain West Joint Venture	12	\$2.6 million
2016	Sonoma County Venture Conservation	National	Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District	15	\$8.0 million
2016	Yurok Traditional Landscape Management Plan	State	Yurok Tribe	4	\$2.2 million
2014/2015	Expansion of Waterbird Habitat Enhancement Programs on Central Valley Agricultural Lands	CCA	California Rice Commission	10	\$7 million
2014/2015	Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Tricolored Blackbird Habitat on Agricultural Lands	CCA	Audubon California	7	\$1.1 million
2014/2015	Bay Area Partnership Promoting Climate Beneficial Practices for Environmental Enhancement and Resiliency of Working Lands	State	Marin Agricultural Land Trust	11	\$2.5 million
2014/2015	Pajaro Valley Community Water Dialogue	State	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	11	\$800,000
2014/2015	Klamath-Rogue Oak Woodland Health and Habitat Conservation Project	National	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	11	\$3 million
2014/2015	Rice Stewardship Partnership - Sustaining the Future of Rice	National	Ducks Unlimited	39	\$10 million



2017 RCPP Projects

Black Rascal Creek Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$10,000,000 (Critical Conservation Area - California Bay Delta)

Lead Partner: Merced County

Number of Initial Partners: 3

Participating State(s): California (Lead State)

The Black Rascal Creek Project will provide flood protection to the communities of Merced and Franklin/Beachwood in California and surrounding prime agricultural lands, an area that has seen frequent and severe flooding. In addition to flood control, the project will address drought, water quality, soil quality and inadequate wildlife habitat. The project is sponsored by the Merced Streams Group, a partnership of Merced County, Merced Irrigation District, and City of Merced. The partners expect to triple the federal investment in the project.

Livestock in Harmony with Sage-Grouse

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$8,000,000 (National)

Lead Partner: Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Number of Initial Partners: 11

Participating States: California and Nevada (Lead State)

In 2012, private landowners, non-profits, and federal, state and local government partners developed the 2012 Bi-State Action Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse to proactively conserve key habitat and significantly reduce long-term threats to the Bi-State greater sage-grouse population in Nevada and California. Through the Livestock in Harmony with Sage-Grouse project, 11 collaborating partners will implement recommended water quality, rangeland and soil health conservation practices and monitoring on grasslands of special significance in Nevada and California; partners will secure conservation easements on at least 11,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat on working ranches. The project intends to protect and measurably enhance sage-grouse habitat on working ranchlands, improve water quality, and to assist producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements.

San Mateo Coast Farmland, Water and Wildlife

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$3,465,670 (State)

Lead Partner: Peninsula Open Space Trust

Number of Initial Partners: 2

Participating States: California (Lead State)

On the San Mateo coast, agricultural lands occupy vital spaces between large islands of protected open space, and contain significant creeks, forests, grasslands, and other fish and wildlife habitats. Farmland also comprises many of the flat, scenic, developable areas in coastal San Mateo County. The proximity to Silicon Valley makes risk of development here extraordinarily high, and farmland sells for ten times the national average. In many places, farmers have been unable to own the land they have farmed for generations. Real estate speculation and other factors have led to an underinvestment in agriculture infrastructure, and in the land itself. Water management is a critical example of this. Challenges with antiquated irrigation equipment and inadequate storage exacerbate conflicts with native species' needs for the same limited water supplies. These challenges are compounded by California's drought, which has severely impacted both fish and farmers. This project will expedite delivery of natural resource conservation on agriculture lands by integrating land protection and stewardship strategies farm-by-farm and across the region to address these priority challenges.

San Diego County Partners Agricultural Sustainability

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$472,590 (State)

Lead Partner: Mission Resource Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 16

Participating States: California (Lead State)

The Mission Resource Conservation District and 15 local partners will improve irrigation system efficiency on 120 agricultural properties in San Diego County, Calif., through the San Diego County Partners Agricultural Sustainability project. Partners will encourage property owners to implement irrigation systems and conservation practices through enrollment in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program or EQIP. Irrigation system evaluations and conservation plans will be utilized to ascertain the baseline conditions of each participating property and to determine the necessary conservation practices needed to ensure sustainability.